

Remarks

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. Claims 1-20 were rejected. Claims 1 and 16 are amended. Claims 3-6, 12, 14, 15, 19, and 20 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 2, 7-11, 13, and 16-18 are now pending. Claim 1 is the independent claim. Reconsideration of the amended application is respectfully requested.

The undersigned thanks the examiner for the model allowable claim provided in the action. The claims are amended herein consistent with the examiner's model claim.

The examiner rejected claims 1-12, 19 and 20 as not reciting statutory subject matter. The claims are amended so as to render the language statutory. The rejection, therefore, should be withdrawn.

The examiner rejected claim 1-10, 13, 19, and 20 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Lin.

Independent claim 1 is amended to include the features of claims 3-6 and 12. Lin does not disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in claim 1 as amended, and therefore does not anticipate the invention as recited in claim 1. Claims 3-6, 19, and 20 are canceled. Claims 2, 7-10, and 13 depend from claim 1, and therefore also are not anticipated by Lin. The rejection of claims 1, 2, 7-10, and 13, therefore, should be withdrawn.

The examiner rejected claims 11, 12, and 14-18 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin, in view of Wheeler et al.

Claims 12, 14, and 15 are canceled. Claims 11 and 16-18 depend from claim 1, which is discussed above with respect to Lin. Wheeler et al. do not overcome the deficiencies of Lin, and therefore no combination of the teachings of Lin and Wheeler et al. could render obvious the invention as recited in claim 1, and therefore as recited in claims 11 and 16-18 as well. The rejection of claims 11 and 16-18, therefore, should be withdrawn.

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that all rejections have been overcome. It is therefore requested that the Amendment be entered, the claims allowed, and the case passed to issue. If any issues remain outstanding, the examiner is urged to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite resolution.

Respectfully submitted,



December 21, 2009

Date

TMC:dam

IP STRATEGIES

Customer No. 49691

Thomas M. Champagne

Registration No. 36,478

828.253.8600